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COMPLIMENTS OF

J. W. Wolcott

HOTEL VENDOME, BOSTON.



THE



BACK-BAY-DISTRICT

AND

THE VENDOME,

BOSTON

By MOSES KING,

Editor of "The Harvard Register," "King's Hand-Book of Boston,"

"Harvard and its Surroundings," Etc.

1880.



THE CITY OF BOSTON.

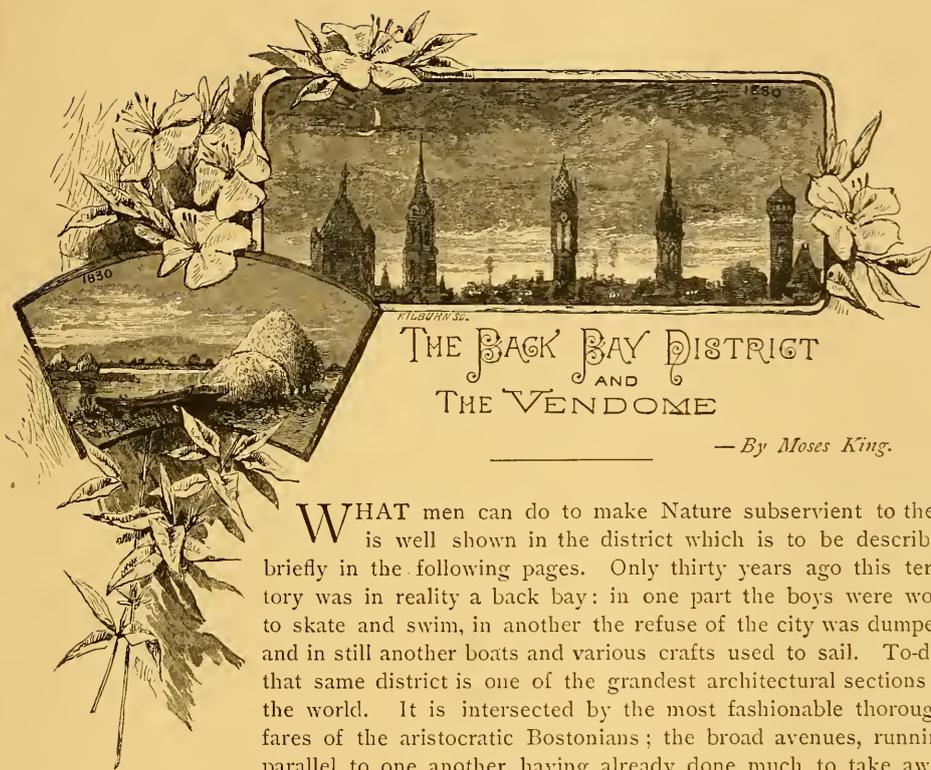
TWO hundred and fifty years ago John Winthrop, at the head of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, bought of William Blaxton, for £30, a peninsula of perhaps 700 acres, which, it is said, was named Boston in honor of the English town whence had come some of the colonists, including Isaac Johnson, the second most important man among them. The colonists had settled a short time previously in Charlestown, — now a part of Boston, — but, not finding there agreeable water, made the purchase just mentioned, and founded a town that has ever since enjoyed an almost uninterrupted career of prosperity. The original territory has been enlarged, both by annexation and by reclaiming land from the bay, until the area of Boston is 23,661 acres ($36\frac{7}{10}$ square miles). The population has steadily increased, until in 1880 it numbers within the city limits 363,938, and including its immediate vicinity, about 600,000. The number of births each year now almost equals the whole population of even a century ago.

A charter was not obtained until 1822; and since then several of the adjoining towns have been annexed, — including Roxbury in 1867, Dorchester in 1869, Charlestown, Brighton, and West Roxbury in 1873. It is a matter of only a few years until other adjoining places — such as Somerville, Chelsea, Brookline, and Cambridge — will be annexed.

Boston lies at the bottom of Massachusetts Bay, in latitude $42^{\circ} 21' 27.6''$ N., and in longitude $5^{\circ} 59' 18''$ E. from Washington, and $71^{\circ} 3' 30''$ W. from Greenwich. Its harbor — 14 miles long, 8 miles wide, with an anchorage of 60 square miles — is one of the best on the Atlantic coast. The city is the seat of the county of Suffolk, the capital of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the metropolis of New England. Compared with other cities in the United States, it is fifth in population, but second in commerce, wealth, banking capital, and valuation. As a seat of learning, it stands perhaps at the head of the list; for its educational, scientific, literary, art, and kindred institutions have been so devotedly cared for by the citizens that the city has well earned the significant epithet — “the Athens of America.” As a manufacturing centre, it ranks among the foremost; containing, as it does, upwards of 6,000 establishments, giving employment to 50,000 or more persons, and producing yearly \$175,000,000 worth of goods of every description. As regards its healthfulness, there is no doubt in the minds of the well-informed people that Boston is one of the healthiest cities in the world. The death-rate, it is true, in 1879 was 19.72; but this rate is compiled from such trustworthy and carefully prepared data, that it ought not to be compared with the death-rate of many cities, which is generally a result of prejudiced estimates. In reference to hotels, Boston long ago cast aside her famous inns which provided “good cheer” with meagre fare, and now provides every grade of accommodation, — from the plainest lodging to the palatial quarters in the recently-built Vendome.

This city enjoys the honor of having established the first newspaper on the continent, — “The Boston News-Letter,” April 24, 1704; and to-day there are five great morning and five successful evening daily newspapers, besides two special dailies, and upwards of 250 periodicals, — all published with more or less success. It is also a noteworthy fact, that the town where printing got its early start is now the acknowledged literary centre of this country. It would not be difficult to dwell upon the supreme virtues of the New-England metropolis; but want of space forbids more than the foregoing sketch, to which might justly be added the high financial credit that the city maintains.

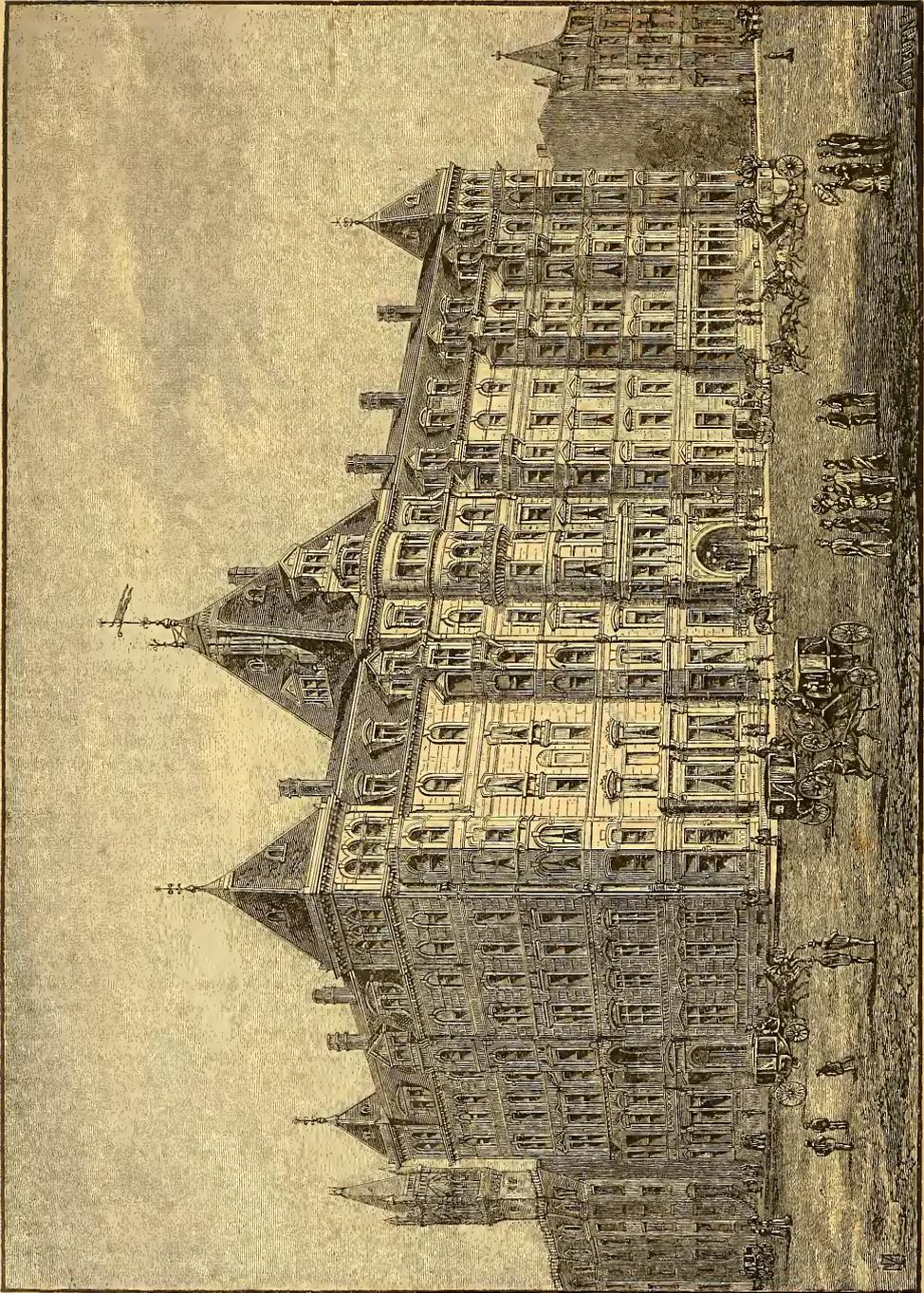
The Indian name of Boston was Shawmut, signifying “living fountains,” and the first substitute for it was Trimontaine (since contracted into Tremont); but Sept. 17, 1630 (N.S.), the name as it now stands was selected. This day is considered as the anniversary of the founding of the city; and in this year, 1880, the 250th anniversary is to be celebrated in a most magnificent manner. And perhaps of the many reasons for rejoicing, not one is of more importance than the successful completion of the great work that will be outlined under the title of “The Back-bay District and the Vendome.”



WHAT men can do to make Nature subservient to them is well shown in the district which is to be described briefly in the following pages. Only thirty years ago this territory was in reality a back bay: in one part the boys were wont to skate and swim, in another the refuse of the city was dumped, and in still another boats and various crafts used to sail. To-day that same district is one of the grandest architectural sections in the world. It is intersected by the most fashionable thoroughfares of the aristocratic Bostonians; the broad avenues, running parallel to one another, having already done much to take away

Boston's past fame of being a city of crooked lanes and narrow, winding streets. It is in this district that many specimens of the best modern architecture have been erected; the latest and costliest, and in many respects the most imposing, as well as the most central of which, is the Vendome, one of the finest hotel structures in the world, and by far the grandest in New England. It is since 1850 that the tide-water has been driven back, the basin filled with clean gravel to an average depth of eighteen feet, and the greater part of the section covered with handsome private residences and imposing public edifices; all of which stand upon made-land, with their foundations resting upon thousands of piles driven deep into the ground. It was this latter fact which caused Oliver Wendell Holmes, who was consulted on the subject, to suggest to Col. Wolcott the advisability of changing the name "Vendome" to "Venetia;" for, as he writes, "I like the sound of the word; and as all this quarter is built on piles, as Venice is, it seems appropriate."

According to some authorities, the original area of "Shawmut"—the Indian name of primitive Boston—was about 700 acres. If this be true, the Back-bay improvement has enlarged the city by a number of acres equal to its original area. And therefore it may be well to pause for a glance at the history of this improvement.



THE VENDOME, on Commonwealth Avenue, the newest and most superb Hotel in Boston.

The "Back Bay" is the name given to the territory, comprising between seven hundred and eight hundred acres, included between Charles, Beacon, and Tremont Streets, and the line which formerly divided Roxbury from Boston. In 1850 it was a waste of flats, over which the tide, admitted through the gates in the Mill Dam, ebbed and flowed up to Charles Street. The Mill Dam (now a continuation of Beacon Street) provided suitable water-power for a number of mills, founderies, and manufactories. It was built by the Boston and Roxbury Mill Corporation; which was incorporated June 14, 1814, for the purpose of making available the water-power to be obtained by the passage of the tide-water (of Charles River) and of the full basin through the gates referred to above, into the receiving-basin, which was the western portion of the present Back-bay territory. The Mill Dam was to be not less than forty-two feet wide on the top, "from Charles Street, at the westerly end of Beacon Street, to the upland at Sewall's Point, so called, in Brookline, . . . to be made so as effectually to exclude the tide-water, and to form a reservoir, or empty basin, of the space between the dam and Boston Neck." In a few years the dam — generally known as Western Avenue — was completed, and was formally opened for public travel on July 2, 1821. Much of this territory lay below the ordinary line of riparian ownership, and therefore belonged to the Commonwealth in fee. This ownership is based on the ordinance of 1641, and judicial decisions founded thereon. The Commonwealth also claimed so much of a strip, 200 feet wide, north of the Mill Dam, as lay below this line, at the ends: subject to whatever easements had been acquired by the Boston and Roxbury Mill Corporation and the Boston Water-Power Company. The Water-Power Company was incorporated in 1824; and bought, in 1832, of the Mill Corporation its mill franchise, water-power, and privileges, and all the real estate lying south of the main dam. The city of Roxbury, now a part of Boston, claimed all lands in the Back Bay lying within its territorial limits, not otherwise granted. Individuals also claimed certain other portions of the territory: some as riparian proprietors, some under the ordinance of 1641, and some for various reasons.

About the year 1850, while these claims were being urged, it became apparent that this district could be used for better purposes than the driving of a few mills, which were of little profit to anybody, and more or less of a nuisance to everybody. It was at this time, too, that the city of Boston was advancing in a southerly direction. Legislative interference having been invoked, a commission consisting of Simon Greenleaf, Joel Giles, and Ezra Lincoln, was appointed by the governor, under the resolve of May 3, 1850, to consider the questions relating to the use of the Back-bay territory. This commission expressed in its report the opinion that the maintenance of the water-power as then arranged was in conflict with more important public and private interests; that its continuance was no longer valuable to the owners; and that it was desirable to fill the receiving-basin, so far as was consistent with the proper flow of the water for harbor purposes, and to convert it into solid land.

The commissioners recommended legislation authorizing the parties interested to change the use of the receiving-basin from mill-purposes to land-purposes, and to fill the same with clean gravel; to secure perfect drainage; to provide for ample wide streets, squares, and ponds; to free the Mill Dam from the tolls which were levied for passing over it; to increase the scouring-force of the water for the preservation of the harbor; and, finally, that these improvements should be carried on under the direction of the State, through a permanent board of commissioners to be appointed for the purpose.

These recommendations were adopted, and commissioners appointed, who, after protracted negotiations, succeeded in 1857 in executing a tripartite agreement between the State,

the City, and the Water-Power Company, completing agreements entered into between these parties, settling their various and conflicting claims, and providing for the carrying-out of the plan for filling the basin, as recommended.

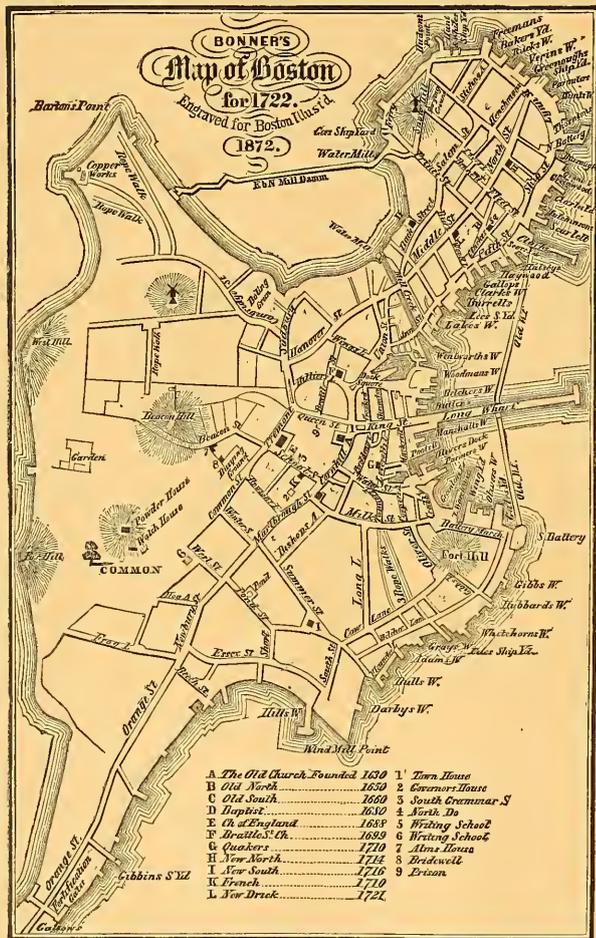
The Commonwealth was then able to proceed with the work of filling in, and that, too, without cost to itself. After one or two experiments, a contract was effected with Goss & Monson, who agreed to do the work, and take their pay in land; the contractors, under

this agreement, receiving 260,000 square feet, and the State 793,000 feet ready for sale.

The contractors entered immediately upon the work, laying railroad-tracks over the territory, and bringing gravel from a hill in Needham, where it was dug by steam-excavators. The work proceeded very rapidly. As fast as streets and lots were ready, they were sold at public auction by the State and the Water-Power Company at remunerative prices, so that the funds for future operations were then constantly in hand.

The net proceeds of the State lands were devoted, after the payment of a portion of the State debt, to which they were pledged, to several literary and scientific institutions: the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, founded by Professor Louis Agassiz and now a part of Harvard University, received \$100,000; Tufts College, \$50,000; Williams College, \$25,000; other institutions smaller grants; and the balance went to the School Fund.

The Report of the State Auditor for 1866 shows, that, up to that date, over 4,000,000 square feet of land had been filled at an average cost of 40½ cents per square foot, and that 1,295,211 square feet had



BOSTON IN 1722: The First Map.

been sold at an average price of \$1.77 per square foot; giving a net profit to the Commonwealth of \$1,212,653. The market value of these lots advanced from \$1.17 in 1858 to \$2.80 in 1865. By the report for 1880, of the Harbor and Land Commissioners, who succeeded the old board of Back-bay Commissioners, it appears that the total number of square feet sold since 1857 is 2,084,931, for \$4,307,722; the average price per foot being \$2.066. Dec. 1, 1879, there remained unsold 287,258 square feet; the whole quantity belonging to the State in 1857

being 4,723,998 square feet, of which 314,740 square feet have been given to the city and to divers institutions, and 2,037,068 square feet devoted to streets, passage-ways, etc.

The whole territory is now very largely filled; and what, but a very few years ago, was a dreary waste of water and unsightly flats, is now the most valuable of the real estate in Boston, with stately avenues and well-improved streets, that every year advance farther south in the direction of the Roxbury district. From the map of Boston in 1722, which is given on another page, one can see what a small pear-shaped peninsula the town of Boston was. He will also be unable to find any indication of what is now the Back-bay district. By comparing this old map with a modern one, it can easily be seen what a vast area Boston has gained on every side by reclaiming the land from the bay. Boylston Street was extended in 1843; but it was not until 1856 that Arlington Street was laid out. Columbus Avenue, eighty feet wide and one mile and a half long, runs from Park Square to Northampton Street, The sidewalks, being each eighteen feet wide, give the avenue virtually a width of one hundred and sixteen feet, and make of it one of the finest thoroughfares in Boston. It was laid out in



ARLINGTON STREET, The Western Boundary of the Public Garden.

1869, and is already lined with handsome dwellings, fine family-hotels, and several of the leading churches. It is to be extended to Tremont Street. Huntington Avenue is a smoothly-paved boulevard, one hundred feet wide, and begins at Clarendon and Boylston Streets, four blocks south of the Vendome, and extends south-west about one mile. It is to be continued to Tremont Street, one and a half miles farther. At present there is only one building on the avenue, the Hotel Huntington; but several are soon to be erected, including the great exhibition-building of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association, at the corner of Newton Street. Its freedom from foot-passengers makes it a favorite road for fast driving. It was laid out in 1875.

The term "Back-bay district" nowadays is commonly understood to mean simply the section west of Arlington, between Beacon Street and the track of the Boston and Providence Railroad, although the land reclaimed from the Back Bay, as has been heretofore stated, includes all that portion of the city extending as far east as Tremont Street and as far south as the Roxbury line. It is the Back-bay district in its limited sense that we shall describe in this sketch.

Arlington Street is the western boundary of the Public Garden, all of which is made-ground, and virtually forms a part of the Back-bay improvement. In the days of the Revolution, troops crossed over in boats from a point near Boylston and Charles Streets straightway to Cambridge. In 1794 the City granted most of the site of the Public Garden to some rope-walk proprietors, out of sympathy for their loss in the great fire of that year, which destroyed seven rope-walks in the vicinity of Pearl and Atkinson (now Congress) Streets. At that time the whole "garden" consisted chiefly of salt marsh and flats, spotted with a few small salt-water ponds. There were no streets forming boundaries north or south; "and the eastern limit of the present Garden was denoted by a muddy path through the bog or marshy ground, which had been more travelled over by beast than by man." In 1819 the rope-walks were again burned, and the rope-walk proprietors were about to improve the land and divide it into



SUMNER STATUE, Public Garden.

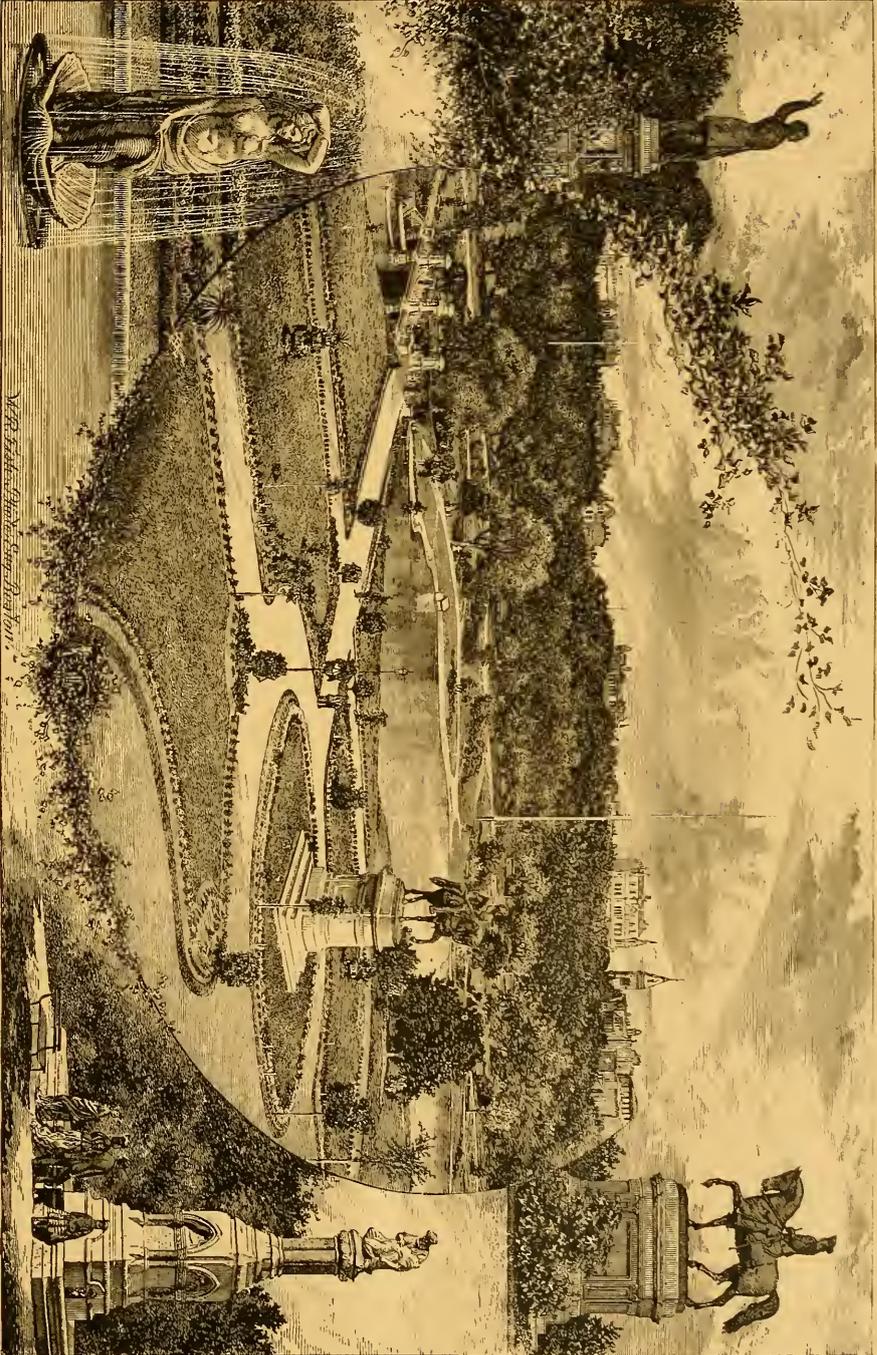
building-lots. The City, however, in 1824 regained by purchase the land it had given away through sympathy. The price paid was \$55,000; and by many persons it was thought an extravagant expenditure, for the land and its westerly border had not yet been improved. As soon as the City regained the land, an attempt was made to sell it for building purposes. But, Dec. 27, 1824, the people voted that the land should never be sold, and that it should not be used for cemetery purposes.

Although the land was bought back in 1824, the improvements for garden purposes were not begun until early in 1859; and in the past twenty years the old marsh land has been transformed into one of the most delightful 24 acres in this country,—in fact, into a small paradise. The Garden abounds in flowers, plants, and trees, is laid out with gravel-paths, and contains many handsome ornaments of various kinds.

There is the white-marble spray-fountain, representing "Venus rising from the sea." It is placed near the Arlington-street entrance; and, standing near it, a person can obtain a

good view of Commonwealth Avenue and the Vendome. To the north of the fountain is the Washington equestrian statue, which at the time of its unveiling, July 3, 1869, was the largest piece of bronze casting ever finished in the United States. It was cast in fourteen pieces, and the joints afterwards made invisible. The height of the pedestal and statue is 38 feet, and of the statue itself 22 feet. A short distance east of this statue is the Ether Monument, one of the most admirable pieces of sculpture to be seen in Boston. It was erected in 1868 at the expense of Thomas Lee, "to commemorate the discovery that the inhaling of ether causes insensibility to pain; first proved to the world [October, 1846] at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston." On the sides of the elaborate granite pedestal are medallions in marble, showing the application of ether; and the shaft is surmounted by two well-modelled figures of the Good Samaritan sculptured in granite.

Midway on the Beacon-street side of the Garden stands the Edward Everett statue of



1. Everett Statue.

2. Venus Statue.

3. View from Arlington Street.

4. Washington Statue.

5. Ether Monument.

THE PUBLIC GARDEN, BOSTON.

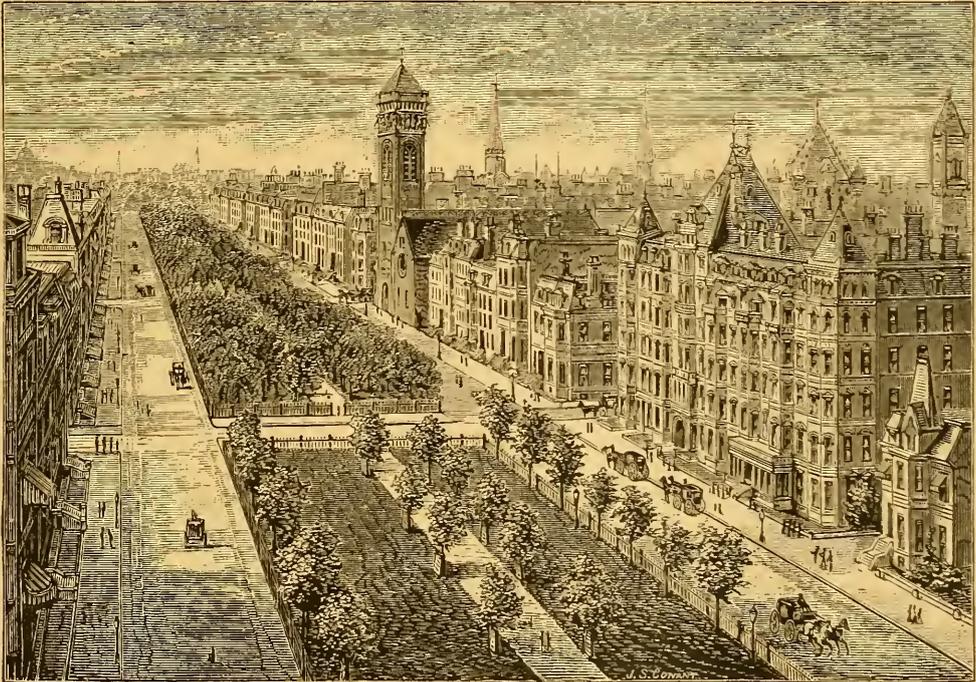
bronze, placed upon a granite pedestal. It was erected in 1867 by means of a popular subscription begun in 1865, and which became so large that out of the surplus a portrait of Everett was painted for Faneuil Hall, \$5,000 given to the Washington equestrian-statue fund, and \$10,000 towards the erection of a statue of Gov. John A. Andrew. On the Boylston-street side, opposite and facing the Everett statue, is the Charles Sumner statue. It is of bronze, stands on a granite pedestal, and cost \$15,000. It was unveiled Dec. 23, 1878. One of the most delightful features of the Garden, however, is its irregularly-shaped pond and its unique bridge. The pond is almost in the centre of the Garden, and has an area of about four acres. It was constructed in 1859, and was one of the first improvements. The bridge rests on heavy stone piers, which give to it a massive appearance. In the summer the Garden is a much-frequented place; and the pond, styled "The Lake," is generally covered by gay little boats, in which children with their attendants enjoy a short ride. In the Public Garden the Boston people take great pride, and have been so generous in its improvement, that every one who passes through it speaks with unbounded enthusiasm in its praise.

Opposite the centre of the Public Garden, on the Arlington-street side, begins Commonwealth Avenue, 200 feet wide from curb to curb, and about 250 feet from house to house. Along its entire length through the centre of the street is a strip of park land, 40 feet wide, laid out with paths, trees, and shrubbery. The park was at first enclosed with an iron railing, which the city began to take down in 1880. It is supplied with benches, and will be from time to time ornamented in various ways. It now contains the statue of Alexander Hamilton, said to have been the first cut out of granite in this country. It was a gift to the city by Thomas Lee. On its front is a medallion, sculptured with the heads of Washington, Hamilton, and Jefferson. In this park is also the heroic bronze figure of Gen. John Glover, a soldier of the Revolution. It was erected in 1875 by Benjamin Tyler Reed, and represents the sturdy old soldier in Continental uniform, with the heavy military cloak hanging in graceful folds from his shoulders, and his foot resting upon a cannon. The Avenue is now laid out for about a mile, — that is, from Arlington Street to West Chester Park, — but it will finally extend much farther and form part of the Back-bay Park. Both sides are lined with almost palatial residences, interspersed with a few public edifices, such as the Brattle-square Church, the Vendome and the Agassiz hotels, etc.

The Brattle-square Church, a name derived from the situation of the former meeting-house of the society, is at the corner of Clarendon Street. It is in the form of a Greek cross, is built of Roxbury stone, and presents a solid, or rather massive, appearance. It has a ponderous square tower, 176 feet high, on the frieze of which are four admirable groups of sculpture representing the four scenes in the life of a Christian. — baptism, communion, marriage, and death; and at the corners of the frieze are four colossal statues with gilded trumpets, typifying the Angels of the Judgment. The sculpture was done after the stone had been put in place. The society became crippled with debt, and has been obliged to discontinue its services.

At the corner of Dartmouth Street and Commonwealth Avenue is the Vendome, one of the most superb and perfect hotels in the world. It is situated at the heart of the Back-bay district, and therefore its surroundings are as delightful as possible. It was built by Charles Whitney, a wealthy Boston capitalist, who with abundance of means has been quite lavish in every detail. It was designed by two leading Boston architects, J. F. Ober and George D. Rand, who devoted to it the care and thought necessary to place it on an equality with the best of hotel structures. In its furnishings throughout, it cannot be surpassed; and but few hotels in the world are to be compared with it in respect to the elegance and tastefulness of all its appointments. And as regards the chief of all considerations, — the management of a

hotel,—it is sufficient to say that the lessee and active manager is Col. J. W. Wolcott, who has done more to raise the standard of hotels in New England than any person now living. He opened and successfully conducted the Hotel Brunswick, which under his management (which ceased in 1879) was the grandest and best-conducted of all the hotels in Boston. Col. Wolcott has devoted himself long and earnestly to the study of the comfort of guests. He has travelled extensively, and examined technically the construction and management of the leading hotels, and has put the results of his vast experience into the Vendome. No hotel proprietor has ever been more enthusiastically spoken of by distinguished guests and leading publications than has Col. Wolcott by the many eminent personages and representatives of the press who have constantly been his patrons.

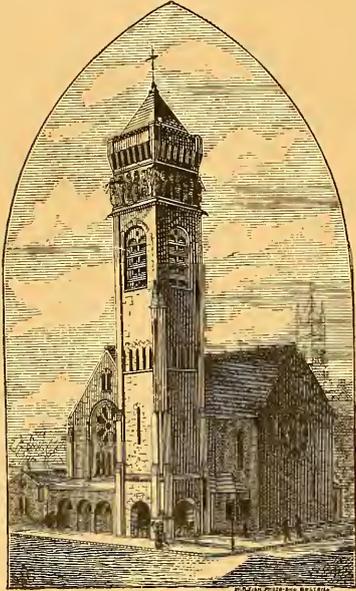


COMMONWEALTH AVENUE, Showing the Brattle-square Church and the Vendome.

The Vendome is not only imposing and palatial, but it is also fire-proof. There are no exterior surroundings to increase the risk,—Commonwealth Avenue 250 feet wide on the north, Dartmouth Street 100 feet wide on the east, and private residences separated from the hotel on the west and south.

The length of the hotel-front on Commonwealth Avenue is 240 feet, and on Dartmouth Street 125 feet. Including the mansard roof and the basement, the Vendome is eight stories in height. The Commonwealth-avenue front is of white Tuckahoe marble, and the front on Dartmouth Street is of Italian marble. The caps of the windows and doors are elaborately carved. The roof and towers are of wrought iron, covered with slate; the floors are laid upon iron beams and brick arches; and all interior partitions are of strictly incombustible material.

On the first floor are the various public rooms, five dining-rooms, an elegant banquet-hall 30 by 110 feet, and the grand parlors; all reached by the main entrance and by a private entrance on Commonwealth Avenue, so that clubs and parties can be served without interference with the ordinary business of the hotel. There is also an entrance for ladies on Dartmouth Street. The rotunda is most exquisitely finished; and the great dining-hall with seats for 250 persons is richly adorned with mirrors, carved mahogany and cherry wood, and decorated with fresco-work and a handsome frieze. Each of the six upper stories contains seventy rooms, grouped so as to be used singly or in suites. Two of the celebrated Whittier



BRATTLE SQUARE CHURCH.

passenger, one baggage, and several smaller elevators for special purposes, provide ample facilities for transit up and down. The plumbing-work is almost marvellous, for every improvement to secure health and comfort has been introduced. Every apartment has access to a spacious bathroom, which, as well as every gas-fixture, has its own independent ventilating-tubes. No open basins are placed in chambers, but all are shut off in the closets adjoining. Every room is provided with open fire-places, although the whole building is heated by steam. The rooms are all virtually "outside rooms," and every suite has a bay-window. In short, there is no improvement of modern times that has not been introduced into this noble edifice; and no luxury afforded in situation, surroundings, magnificence, and *cuisine*, in any hotel, is wanting in the Vendome. Had Mr. Whitney and Col. Wolcott done nothing else than erect this noble edifice, which has been done at a cost approaching one million dollars, they would have earned the gratitude of all Bostonians. Many years will elapse before another similar hotel will be erected in Boston; and Col. Wolcott probably for many years will have, as he has had for years past, the honor of conducting the grandest hotel in this city.

The Vendome may be said to be situated in a religious district; for around about it is a group of America's most famous churches,—famous alike for the grandeur of the edifices, as for the ability of their clergymen. The Brattle-square Church has already been mentioned. Its last pastor was the Rev. Dr. Samuel K. Lothrop. At the corner of Dartmouth and Boylston Streets,—a minute's walk from the Vendome,—is the new church-edifice of the Old South Society, the lineal successor of the original society that erected the historic Old South Church now standing at the corner of Milk and Washington Streets. The structure, which covers an area of 200 by 90 feet, includes a church, chapel, and parsonage, and is one of the finest specimens of church architecture on this continent. It is of Roxbury stone, with freestone trimmings; and the interior finish is of cherry. The seating capacity is between 800 and 900. The massive tower is 235 feet high. The cost of the whole edifice was about \$500,000. The pastor is the well-known Rev. Dr. Jacob M. Manning, who has preached to the same congregation (Trinitarian) for nearly a quarter of a century.

Another of the famous churches within a short distance of the Vendome is the new Trinity Church (Protestant Episcopal), at the intersection of Huntington Avenue, Boylston, and Clarendon Streets. It is generally considered the finest church-edifice in New England, if not in the

United States. It is in the pure French Romanesque style, in the shape of a Latin cross, with a semi-circular apse added to the eastern arm. The extreme width of the church across the transept is 121 feet, and the extreme length is 160 feet. The chancel is 57 feet deep by 52 feet wide. The tower is very conspicuous, owing to its massive form. It is 211 feet high, and 46 feet square inside. The material in the body of the church is Dedham granite, ornamented with brown freestone trimmings. The cost of the building was \$750,000. The rector, the Rev. Dr. Phillips Brooks, is known throughout the country as one of the most eloquent and able clergymen of the present time.

Another church within a few minutes' walk from the Vendome is the "First Church" (Congregational Unitarian), famous not only for its exquisite architecture and able minister, — the Rev. Dr. Rufus Ellis, who was installed as pastor of this society in 1853, — but also as being the first church in Boston. It was established in 1630, and will in October celebrate its 250th anniversary. The building is at the corner of Berkeley and Marlborough Streets. It is a beautiful structure, and cost about \$325,000. The architects were Ware & Van Brunt of Boston.

Still another of the famous churches is the Central Church (Congregational Trinitarian) corner of Berkeley and Newbury Streets. It is of Roxbury stone, with sandstone trimmings. Its cost was over \$325,000. The spire, 236 feet high, is the tallest in the city. Its pastor is the Rev. Joseph T. Duryea.

The Second Church (Congregational Unitarian) on Boylston, near Dartmouth Street, is also near the Vendome. It has a modest though tasteful exterior, is commodious and elegant within; but this congregation, too, claims an esteemed old age, and dates its formation to 1649, when the second church in Boston was founded. A remarkable fact about this church-edifice is, that it was moved from Bedford Street: that is, the building was taken down, removed entire, and re-erected. The Rev. Robert Laird Collier, formerly of Chicago, is the pastor.



GLOVER STATUE, Commonwealth Avenue.



HAMILTON STATUE, Commonwealth Ave.

The Arlington-street Church (Congregational Unitarian) is at the corner of Arlington and Boylston Streets. Its finely-shaped steeple, its sweet chimes, and the lovely vines that conceal the Boylston-street side, are sufficient in themselves to make it an attractive object; but its eventful history makes the church of additional interest. The society was formed in 1727 as a Presbyterian body; but in 1786 the Congregational form of worship was substituted. Its

first place of worship was a barn on Long Lane (now Federal Street). In 1744 a meeting-house was erected on the same site; and in this building the United-States Constitution was adopted by the State Convention in 1788. This meeting-house was supplanted in 1809 by a brick house, which in 1859 was taken down. Subsequently the society purchased a site in the Back-bay district, and erected the present building. It was while in charge of this congregation, from 1803 to 1842, that the Rev. Dr. William Ellery Channing distinguished himself as scholar, writer, and preacher. His colleague and successor was the Rev. Dr. Ezra S. Gannett, who was killed by the Revere railroad accident in 1871. The pastor since 1872 has been the Rev. J. F. W. Ware, who is highly esteemed by the entire denomination.

Emmanuel Church (Protestant Episcopal) is a handsome brown-stone building on the north side of Newbury, between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets. The parish was formed in 1860, and the first rector was the Rev. Frederick D. Huntington, now Bishop of Central New York. His successors have been respectively the Rev. A. H. Vinton, D.D., and the Rev. Leighton Parks, the present rector.

The Vendome may be appropriately located as being in the centre of an educational district; for on the "Back Bay" there are several prominent institutions of learning, such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Harvard Medical School, the Chauncy-hall School, the Sisters of Notre Dame Academy, the Prince Public School, and the Boston Public Library. All these either are now or are soon to be erected in the Back-bay district proper; while on the border of the district there are many other educational institutions.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology was among the first to erect a building on the Back Bay. The building is an elegant structure of pressed brick with freestone trimmings, and stands on land granted by the State on the north side of Boylston, between Berkeley and Clarendon Streets. In the Institute building there are upwards of fifty rooms, used chiefly for laboratories and lecture-rooms. There is also a large, elegant audience-room, called Huntington Hall,—in honor of Ralph Huntington, a generous benefactor of the Institute,—with a seating-capacity of 900. Close by this building are a large temporary workshop and chemical laboratory, a well-equipped gymnasium, and a drill-shed where students are trained in military tactics. The Institute was founded for the purpose of instituting and maintaining a Society of Arts, a Museum of Arts, and a School of Industrial Science. The Society of Arts numbers between 200 and 300 members. The Museum already contains models of machinery, casts, prints, drawings, architectural plans, etc. The School has about 40 instructors and 300 students. There are nine courses, "civil and topographical engineering," "mechanical engineering," "geology and mining engineering," "building and architecture," "chemistry," "metallurgy," "natural history," "science and literature," and "physics." Each course extends through four years. A School of Mechanic Arts, in which special prominence is given to manual instruction, has been established; and a School of Industrial Design is also maintained. The Institute receives aid from the government under an Act of Congress designed to promote instruction in agriculture, the mechanic arts, and military science and tactics. It is authorized to confer degrees, and is obliged to provide for military instruction. The president is William B. Rogers, LL.D., and the chairman of the faculty is Professor John M. Ordway.

In the hall of the Institute of Technology are delivered the free lectures of the Lowell Institute, one of Boston's unique educational institutions. It was established in 1839 "to provide for regular courses of free lectures upon the most important branches of natural and moral science, to be annually delivered in the city of Boston." In these courses are always found the names of lecturers ranking foremost in their respective studies. The founder was John Lowell, a member of a family distinguished in Massachusetts for the past century.



THE OLD SOUTH CHURCH, Boylston Street, corner of Exeter Street.

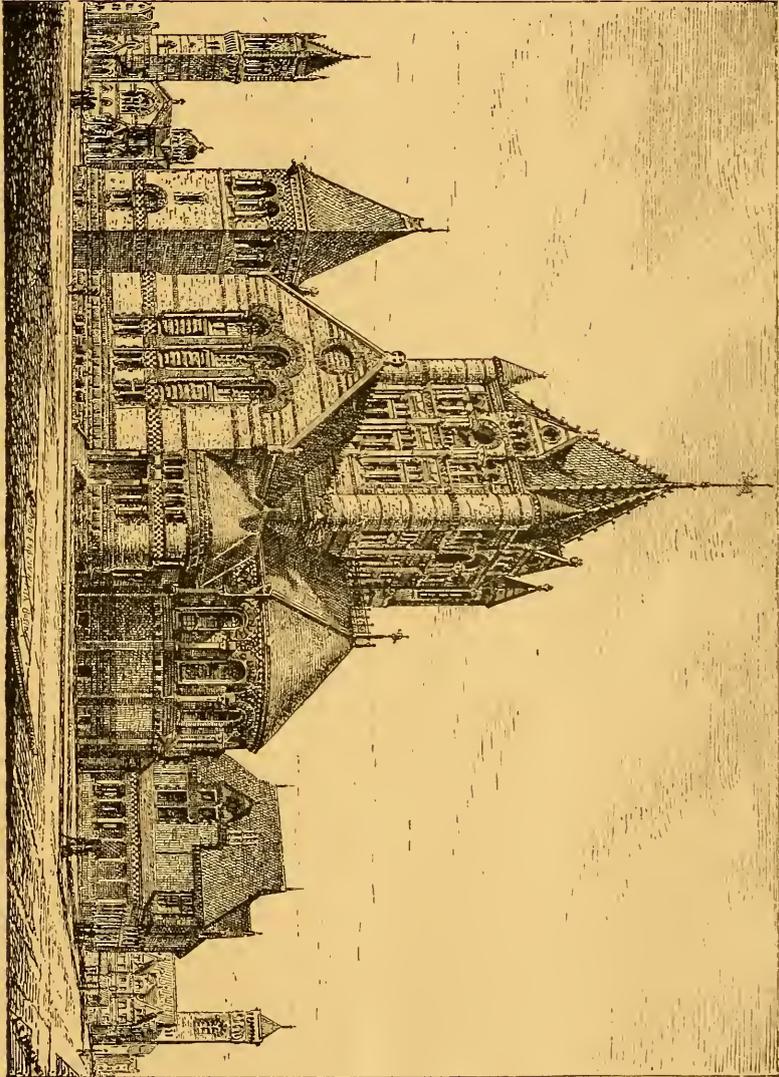
Hartman

The Appalachian Mountain Club is another of the learned societies that meet in the vicinity of the Vendome. It was organized in 1876, for the encouragement of geographical research and mountain exploration in the eastern portion of the United States. Its five departments embrace natural history, topography, art, exploration, and improvements. It has rendered good service in the United States Coast Survey, and in the geological survey of New Hampshire, and has invented several novel surveying instruments, including a topographical camera, micrometer level, portable plane tables, etc. The Club comprises about two hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen, who hold their meetings at the Institute of Technology.

The office of the secretary of the Archæological Institute of America, E. H. Greenleaf, is at the Museum of Fine Arts. This society was organized in 1879 to promote investigation and research in archæology. Although in operation but one year, it has already gained a firm foothold among the esteemed societies in Boston. Professor Charles Eliot Norton of Harvard University is the president.

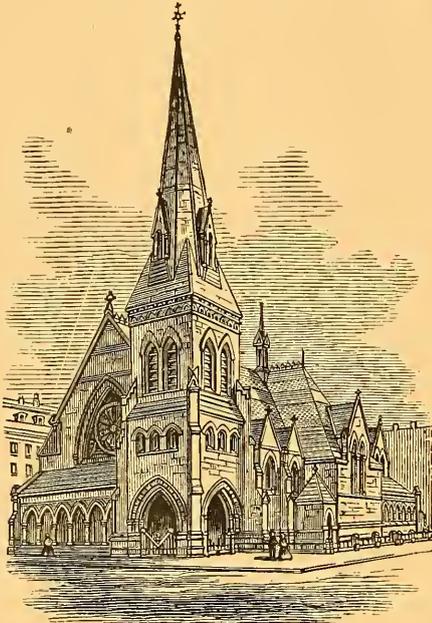
The Harvard Medical School, founded in 1782, has recently bought a site for a new and commodious building on the south side of Boylston, between Dartmouth and Exeter Streets. It will adjoin the building soon to be erected for the Boston Public Library. No plans have as yet been determined upon; but it will undoubtedly be erected in a style in keeping with the age and high standing of the Medical School, which is perhaps the most successful of the several professional schools of Harvard University.

Within a stone's-throw of the Vendome is one of the most celebrated private schools in this country,—the Chauncy-hall School. It was established in 1828, and for upwards of fifty years it has had a constantly successful career. The building now occupied is of brick, in an attractive and unique style. It is situated on Boylston, near Dartmouth Street, and faces the Museum of Fine Arts. It was built in 1874 by an association of the alumni. The interior arrangements show the results of the most careful thought and extensive experience. Every thing possible has been done to secure thorough drainage, perfect ventilation, extreme dryness, comfortable warmth, and an abundance of sunshine. The furniture comprises the best of the modern patterns, and all was made from models approved of by several eminent surgeons. The walls are decorated with a good collection of classical photographs and pictures that were selected for their appropriateness. To give a minute description of the many conveniences that the building possesses, would require more space than can be given here. As an educational institution Chauncy Hall stands prominent among the best schools. It was founded by Gideon F. Thayer, a competent, energetic, and far-sighted gentleman, famous among modern Boston schoolmasters, who insisted on punctuality, order, neatness, and thoroughness; and his precepts have been followed by his successors. The principals have always been aided by a large and able corps of instructors, of whom to-day there are twenty. The courses are many and varied. They include a thorough English course preparatory for business, a classical course preparatory for colleges, and a scientific course preparatory for the Institute of Technology. The school is devoted equally to the education of girls and boys, of whom there are at present nearly 300. One feature is the care given, not only to the mental progress, but also to the thorough physical development, of the pupil. This was the first school to introduce a military drill, and it now has also a well-equipped gymnasium attached to the drill-hall. The graduates of Chauncy Hall are numerous, and include eminent business and professional men scattered throughout the country. Many pupils get their entire preparatory education here; beginning as little children in the kindergarten or primary department, and passing through various classes of the upper department until they are young men and women. The school is always open to visitors.



TRINITY CHURCH, Corner of Clarendon Street and St. James Avenue.

The Sisters of Notre Dame have an academy and convent on Berkeley Street, at the corner of St. James Avenue. This is a French order, founded in 1804 by the reverend Mother Julia Billiard. The "Mother House" is at Namur, Belgium; and there are about 2,000 sisters in England, Belgium, and the United States. The building was finished in 1863, and the school opened in 1864. It is a neat $3\frac{1}{2}$ -story brick structure, with freestone trimmings. In the hallway is a fine bas-relief, 4 by 6 feet, representing the Lord in a kneeling posture,



FIRST CHURCH, Berkeley Street.

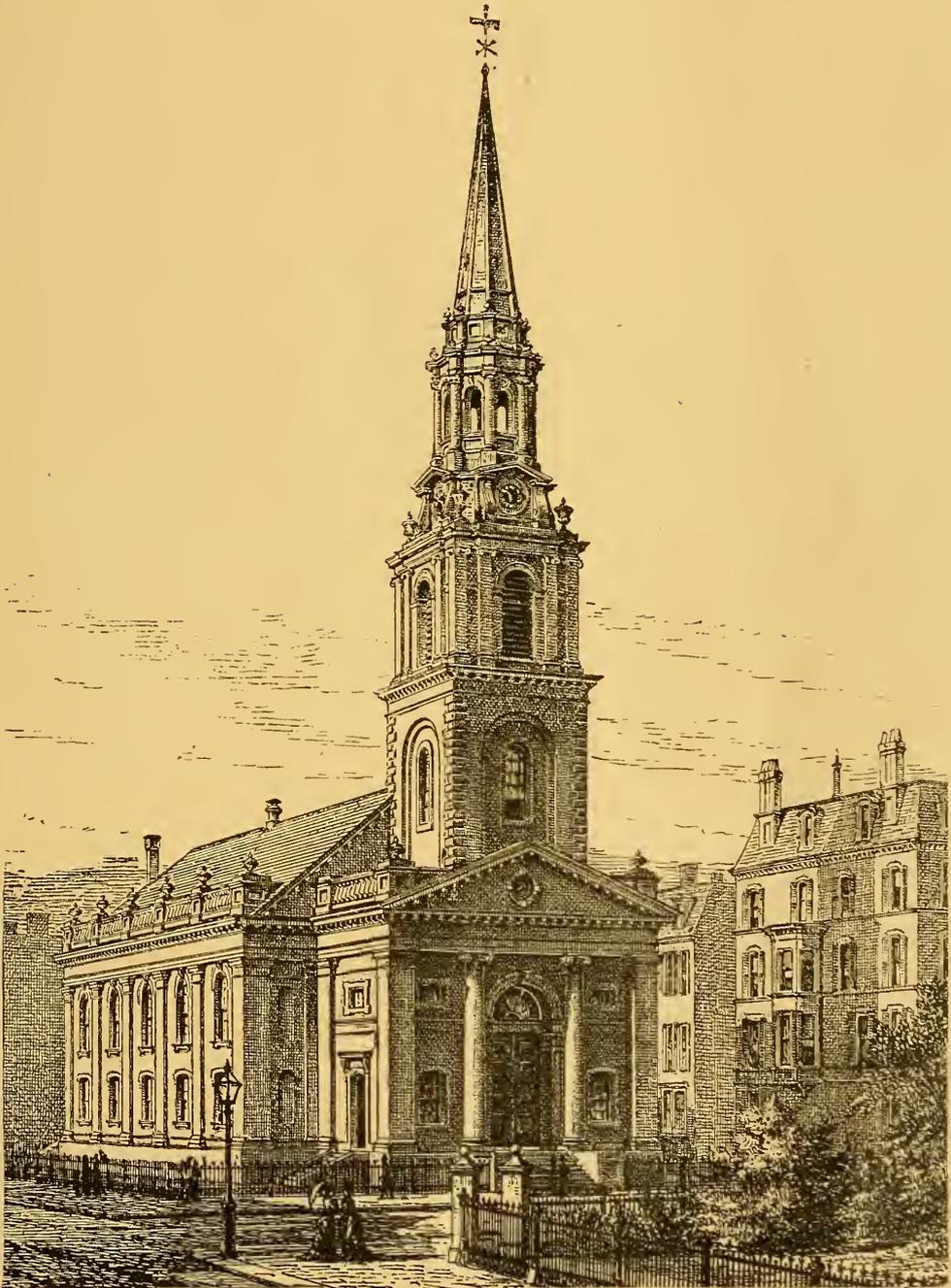
bearing the cross. On the first floor are recitation and reception rooms, and a cabinet containing a small collection of minerals, chemicals, and philosophical apparatus, and a library of French books. On the second floor is the chapel and an oratory where religious instruction is given to the lady members of the Sodality of the Children of Mary. The upper floors and basement are used for household purposes of the three sisters who conduct this school, and of those who teach the schools of Trinity, St. Stephen's, St. Mary's, and Somerville parishes. Behind the building is a lovely little garden, well laid out. This school has about fifty pupils, all young ladies. They are required to stay three years to obtain a diploma; and come as graduates of the public and parish schools to receive advanced instruction.

The Prince School, named in honor of Frederick O. Prince, Mayor of Boston, is often called the Exeter-street School because it is situated on Exeter Street at the corner of Newbury Street, just around the corner from the Vendome. It is considered one of the finest grammar-school buildings in the city, and the pupils are among the best

scholars in the Boston schools of its grade. An order for enlarging the building has been passed by the City Government, and the money appropriated for the purpose.

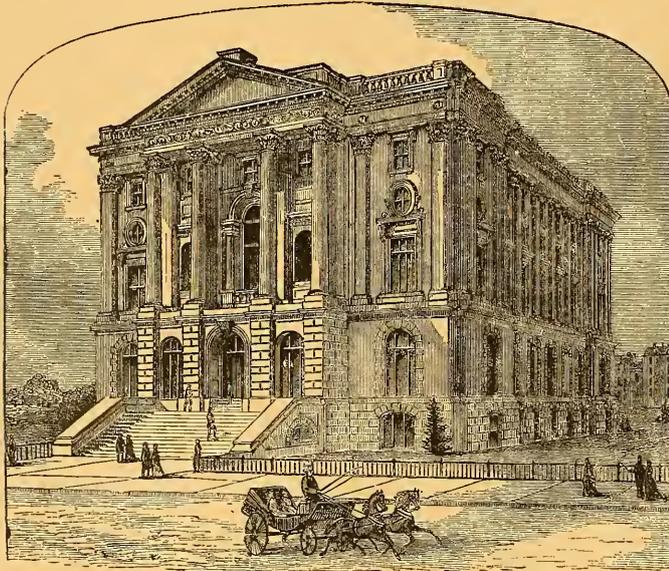
With the educational institutions in this district can very appropriately be classed the Boston Public Library, the largest collection of books in the United States, exceeding by many thousand volumes even the Library of Congress. It was established in 1848, and now possesses 400,000 volumes, and thousands of pamphlets; besides many valuable manuscripts, works of art, and antiquities. It has an income of about \$120,000 a year. The building now occupied on Boylston Street, opposite the Boston Common, was erected in 1858, at a cost of \$365,000; and, as the library has already outgrown its accommodations, a new site has just been obtained on Boylston Street, between Dartmouth and Exeter Streets, about a minute's walk from the Vendome. Operations are to be begun in the spring of 1881. The library building will occupy one-half of the square, and the Harvard Medical School will occupy the other half.

Another library, although not to be compared with the Boston Public Library in the number of books, deserves mention. It is the Boston Medical Library; which contains 9,000 volumes and 6,000 pamphlets, and receives regularly 125 periodicals. Its rooms are at No. 19 Boylston Place.



ARLINGTON-STREET CHURCH, Opposite the Public Garden.

Not only religious and educational institutions are in the immediate vicinity of the Vendome, but also the leading art and scientific associations. Two blocks distant is Art Square, a triangular space at the junction of Clarendon Street, St. James and Huntington Avenues. Fronting on St. James Avenue in this square is the Museum of Fine Arts, one of the noblest monuments of the taste, refinement, and generosity of Boston people. The limits of this work will permit but a brief outline of the history of the Museum; for a description of the contents and building would easily fill a volume. The land, comprising



INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, Boylston Street.

91,000 square feet, was given to the City by the Boston Water-Power Company for a public square or a site of a museum of fine arts. In 1870 the city gave the land to the Museum corporation, and immediately a subscription was started which brought in \$250,000. The first section was thereupon begun in 1871, and completed in five years. In 1878 the trustees asked for only \$100,000 additional, but \$125,000 was unhesitatingly subscribed. The building itself, in the Italian Gothic style, is a work of art. Its principal material is red brick; and the mouldings, copings, and ornaments are

of red and buff terra-cotta, imported from England. On the façade there are two large and artistically executed reliefs; that on the right wing representing the Genius of Art, with illustrations of the art and architecture of all nations, of ancient and modern times; and that on the left wing representing Art and Industry joined. In the roundels are heads of distinguished artists and patrons of art.

The rooms on the first floor are devoted to statuary and antiquities: including a very interesting collection of Egyptian antiquities formed by one of the earliest explorers; a goodly number of Greek and Etruscan vases; antiquities in glass, terra-cotta, and stone, from Cyprus, Athens, Rome, and other places; and a number of exquisite little figurines from Tanagra. The collection of casts from marbles is perhaps second only to that of Berlin. It covers the range of art from Egyptian, Assyrian, and Archaic Greek, through the best period of Greek sculpture to Roman work, with a large number of the Renaissance period. One hall is given to architectural casts.

On the second floor are three galleries for oil-paintings, in which the exhibition is frequently varied by new pictures; one room for water-colors, two for prints. The display of decorative art is very rich, whether in textiles, pottery, metal-work, or wood-carvings, or in Japanese lacquers and other bric-à-brac.

On the third floor and in the basement are the studios and lecture-rooms of the

School of Drawing and Schools of Decorative Art, established a few years ago under the auspices of the Museum.

The building has been built, the collections have been formed, and are sustained, wholly by private contributions. The Museum is open every day in the year; and no pleasanter sight is offered than the well-dressed, well-behaved, and interested throngs that gather there on Sunday afternoons. The site was given to the City on condition that the Museum should be open free to the public one day in the week, that is on Saturdays; but to the liberality of the Association is due the credit of opening it without charge on Sundays. The admission fee at any time is merely nominal, — twenty-five cents, — and aids in the support of the institution.

Near Art Square the Boston Art Club recently purchased a site, and will shortly begin to erect a unique and suitable building, from a plan which will be made from the combination of the best features of six plans drawn forth by prizes that had been offered. The present building of the Club is a remodelled dwelling-house on Boylston Street, a short distance west of the Boston Public Library. In it at times are public exhibitions of works of art, while at all times there is a private display of paintings and sculpture. The members meet at the rooms to discuss art matters, and read the current literary and art periodicals.

The Boston Society of Decorative Art occupies the upper floors of the building No. 8 Park Square. It was organized in 1878 to encourage art-culture, and for this purpose provides instruction in art-needlework, porcelain-painting, and pottery-decorating. The society sells the goods left on exhibition, and by means of the percentage received on the sales is aided in furnishing the instruction at a moderate cost. The committees in charge of the school and the designs are composed of highly-esteemed ladies and gentlemen of Boston. This Society is in communication with similar societies in other cities. It gives an annual exhibition.



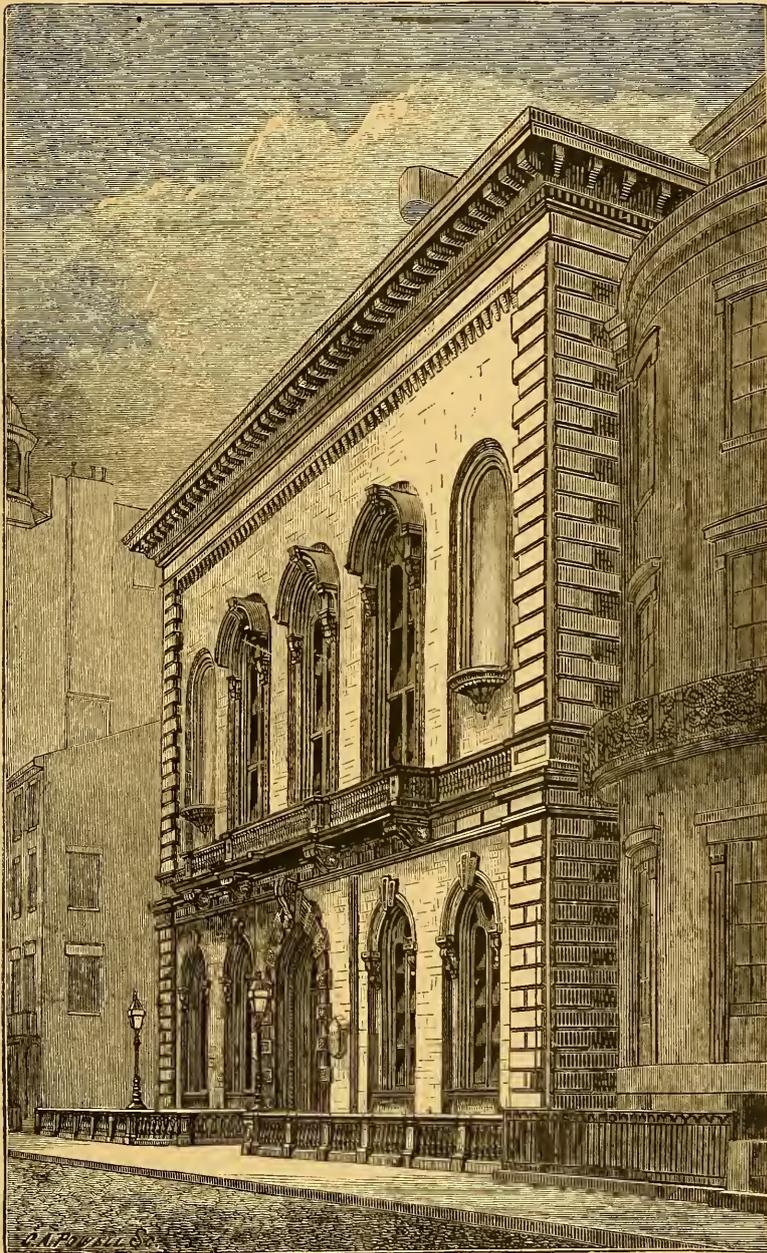
CHAUNCY HALL SCHOOL, Boylston Street.

Another institution which has done a full share towards the just acquisition by Boston of the appropriate title, "the Athens of America," is also situated in the Back-bay district. It is the Boston Society of Natural History, whose prominent building stands at the north-west corner of Berkeley and Boylston Streets. The society was founded in 1830, and for many years suffered from lack of funds; but in due time several generous friends — notably the late Dr. William J. Walker — provided the means for its successful operation. The building was erected in 1863, on land granted by the State in 1861. Scientific meet-

ings, either of the general society or some one of its sections, are held frequently. Regular courses of free instruction are given in Natural History. This teaching is wholly by oral lessons, with objects given to the pupils. During the winter of 1879-80 an attendance of five hundred teachers, to whom one hundred thousand specimens were given, proved the success of the enterprise. The library, containing twenty thousand volumes and pamphlets, is composed largely of the publications of the four hundred learned societies with which this society is in communication. The museum, containing principally the choicest materials for the best educational use, is displayed to the greatest advantage. The collections are arranged in a serial order, from the basement to the upper gallery; so that the visitor is carried from the inorganic kingdom, up through the extinct animals and plants, to the existing, in such a way that he will readily see their relations to one another. A general guide to the museum has recently been published, that will be of great service to visitors, who are admitted free on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The president of the society is Samuel H. Scudder, who is also the assistant-librarian of the Harvard University Library, the third largest library in America.

Conspicuous among the buildings within a short radius of the Vendome is the grand depot of the Boston and Providence Railroad. It was built in 1874, and consists of two distinct but connected parts. Its beautiful square tower, with an illuminated clock, is to be seen from many quarters of the city. The "head-house," or station proper, is an oddly shaped building on the exterior, adapted as it was to the irregularly shaped lot; but inside it loses its odd appearance, and presents one of the most pleasing interiors to be seen in any railroad-station in the world. Its length is 212 feet; and its width, at the widest part, is 150 feet. In the centre is a great marble hall, 180 feet long, 44 feet broad, and 80 feet high, surrounded, on the ground-floor by waiting and other rooms for the accommodation of passengers, a café, news-stand, barber-shop, luggage, package, and other rooms; and on the second floor, or gallery, by the offices of the company, a well-furnished billiard-hall, etc. Upon the walls of the passenger-rooms are painted an index of stations and distances, and maps of the country passed through by the Providence Road and its connections. The train-house is 600 feet long, 130 feet wide. Its great iron trusses span five tracks and three platforms. The station is the longest in the world,—850 feet from end to end,—and cost upwards of \$800,000. The Boston and Providence was the second railroad opened from Boston, and is to-day one of the most completely appointed and best-managed railroads in the United States. The road proper, from Boston to Providence, R. I., is 44 miles, and the branches and leased lines are 22½ miles in length. The Providence Road, as it is generally spoken of, enjoys the distinction of making the quickest time, as by regular schedule, between terminal points, made by any railroad in this country. This quick time is by the Shore-Line express train to New York, which leaves Boston at 1 P.M., and arrives at Providence at 2 P.M. This road also connects with two popular boat-lines to New York, the "Providence Line" and the "Stonington Line." These steamers are among the finest ever built, and the route and accommodations are not surpassed by those of any line. The trains connecting with these boats leave Boston at 6 and 6.30 P.M. To the passengers over this line, one of the most convenient hotels is the Vendome. The president of the Providence Railroad is Henry A. Whitney, and the superintendent Albert A. Folsom.

In front of the depot, in what is known as Park Square, there was erected in 1879 one of the most attractive of the many statues in Boston. It was the gift of Moses Kimball, and cost \$17,000, exclusive of the curbing of the triangular enclosure, which was furnished by the city.



PUBLIC LIBRARY, Boylston Street, opposite Boston Common.

The group, generally spoken of as the Emancipation Statue, is a design by Thomas Ball, who made several small copies of it, the first of which was for a Bostonian. The original cast, of which this is a duplicate, was made for the "Freedmen's Memorial," which stands in Lincoln Square, eastward of the Capitol at Washington. The portrait of Lincoln is said to be quite accurate; and that of the slave is a likeness, studied from photographs, of the last slave remanded under the fugitive-slave law.

The statue was unveiled Dec. 6, 1879, when appropriate exercises were held in Faneuil Hall; including prayer by the Rev. Dr. Phillips Brooks, an original poem by John G. Whittier, and an oration by Mayor F. O. Prince. The figures are of bronze, and were cast at the Munich Royal Foundry. The pedestal is composed of two steps and a plinth of granite from Cape Ann, with an octagonal die of polished red granite from Jonesborough, Me., weighing sixteen tons. The extreme height is about twenty-five feet.



EMANCIPATION STATUE, Park Square.

The Boston and Providence Railroad track is crossed by that of the Boston and Albany Railroad at the corner of Buckingham and Dartmouth Streets. This crossing, which is only four blocks south of the Vendome, makes, by law, a "Know-Nothing stop," which affords a convenient station for passengers going to the hotel. At this station there will always be found conveyances running in connection with all principal trains. The Boston and Albany Railroad is an important railroad for this city, as it forms one continuous line to the Hudson River. The length of the main line, with double track, is about 200 miles; and

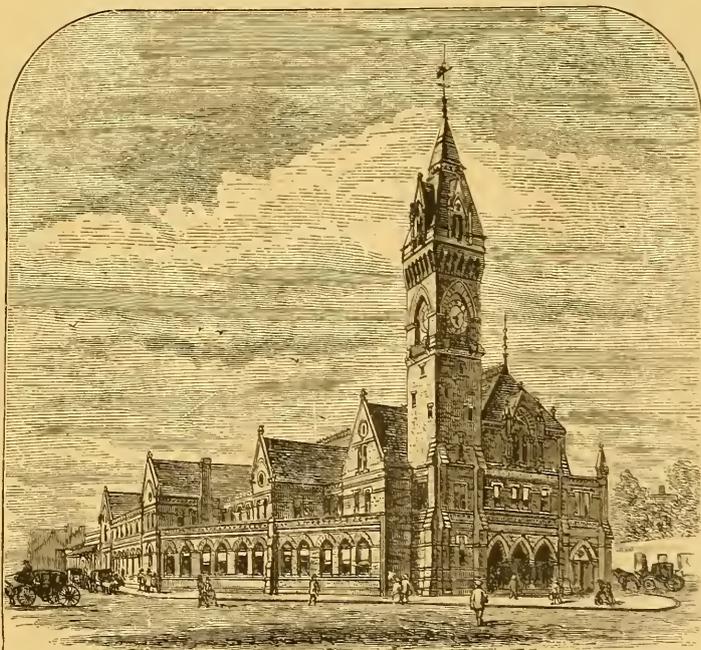
the total length of the line owned, leased, and operated, is 325 miles. This company operates the Grand Junction Railroad, with its extensive and finely-equipped wharves at East Boston; and also two large and substantial grain-elevators, with a capacity of 1,500,000 bushels. Passengers who go into the regular depot on Beach Street will find there, as well as at all railroad-depots, vehicles that will convey them to the Vendome.

It may appear somewhat strange to embody a notice of the Boston Common in a sketch of "The Back-bay District and The Vendome;" but the Boston Common is a favorite theme of all Boston people, and it is also a decided advantage to the new section of the city. By means of its many paths it affords a "short cut" from either end of the city; and by its open space it adds additional security against a conflagration, and also forms a division-line between the business and residence sections. It moreover helps to render the air of the section purer; for now the fresh air sweeps over the Common to and from the adjoining country-places through broad and well-kept thoroughfares, such as Commonwealth Avenue, 250 feet wide, Columbus Avenue, 116 feet wide, Boylston and Beacon Streets, each 100 feet wide, all of which reach the Common or its western boundary, the Public Garden.

The Common was naturally a lovely park; and historic and personal associations, and

artificial adornments, have greatly endeared it to all Boston people; every one having something of personal interest to relate about it. Its undulating surface is covered with green grass, and shaded by a thousand trees. It contains at the present time forty-eight acres, but once covered a larger and much differently shaped territory. At one time it extended farther north on the west side of Tremont Street, and included the old Granary Burying Ground, in which were buried many eminent persons, including eight governors, three judges, the parents of Benjamin Franklin, and several distinguished New-England families. The Common included a large part of the Public Garden, and extended eastward to Mason Street, so that Tremont Street now crosses a part of the former Common. In 1757 the town bought the portion occupied by the Central Burying Ground, and in 1787 the portion occupied by the Deer Park. Park Street was also included. On this street, which extends only from Tremont Street to Beacon, are situated the Union-Club House, the New-England Women's Club Rooms, the Hawthorne Rooms, the Park-street Church, and the Ticknor Residence, in which Lafayette lodged while here on a visit in 1824. At No. 4 Park Street is the office of one of the largest and most celebrated of American publishing firms, Houghton, Mifflin, & Co., who control the publications of many brilliant names in American literature; including Longfellow, Holmes, Emerson, Whittier, Hawthorne, Lowell, Howells, Aldrich, and others. This firm also owns the Riverside Press at Cambridge, known throughout the world for its excellent work. The house occupied, as well as the one adjoining, at No. 5 Park Street, was the former home of the Quincy family, quite familiar in the annals of New-England history.

When the city charter was drawn up in 1822, a clause was inserted by which the city was perpetually prevented from giving away or selling any part of the Common. The first use of this interesting locality was as a training-field and cattle-pasture. It was for many years known as Centry Field. On it stood the town's almshouse, bride-well, workhouse, and the granary put up to provide a sure supply of grain, especially in times of scarcity. In this granary were made the sails of the frigate "Constitution," so famous in the war of 1812.



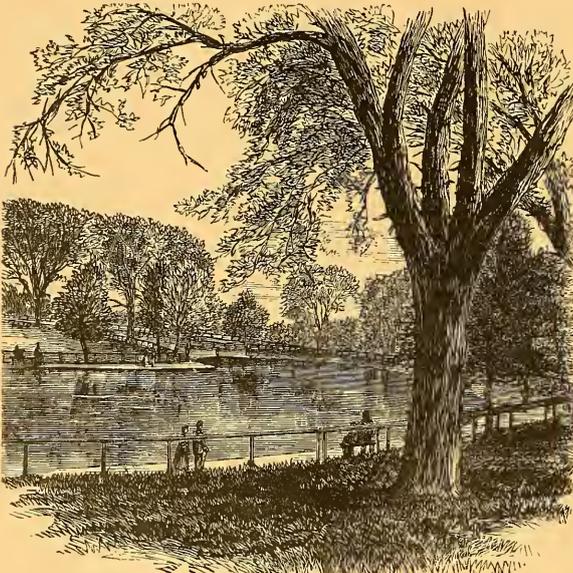
BOSTON AND PROVIDENCE RAILROAD DEPOT, Park Square.

"Her thunders shook the mighty deep,
And there should be her grave.
Nail to the mast her holy flag,

Set every threadbare sail,
And give her to the God of storms,
The lightning and the gale."

A part of the forces that captured Louisburg assembled on the Common; the troops that conquered Quebec were recruited here by Amherst; and the soldiers were mustered here for the conflicts which ushered in the American Revolution. The Common is associated with the horrors of witchcraft and other executions, with horrible forms of capital punishment, as well as with the eloquent preaching of Whitefield. In 1659 two Quakers were hanged there. In June, 1768, the people dragged the collector's boat to the Common, and there burned it, because

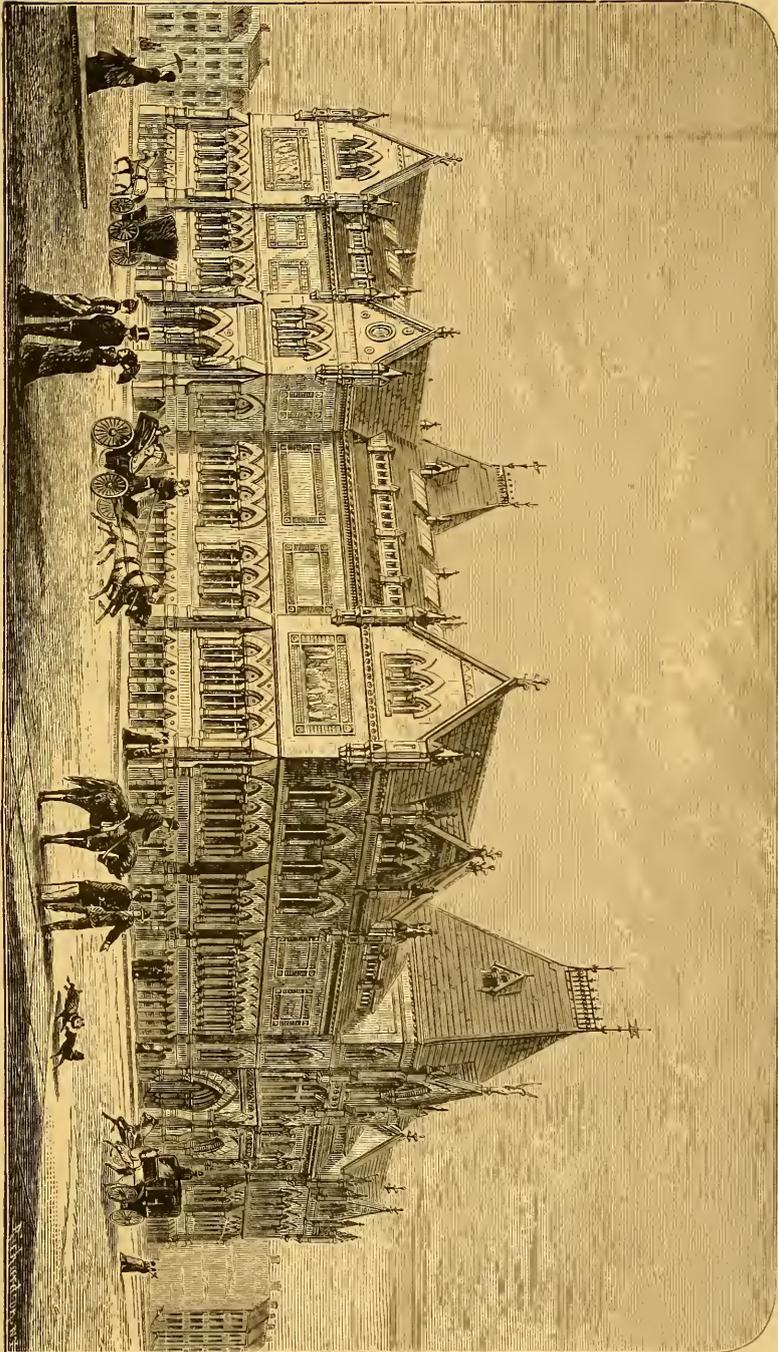
the government officers had seized the sloop "Liberty," the officers of which had made false statements regarding the amount of wine they had brought from Madeira. On the 4th of July of the same year, the 38th Regiment marched to the Common, and encamped there. From the foot of the Common the British troops embarked for Lexington on the night before the memorable April 19, 1775. As early as 1728 a lamentable duel with rapiers occurred, in which Henry Phillips, a nephew of Peter Faneuil, killed Benjamin Woodbridge. In the dreary winter of 1775-76 there were over 1,700 British soldiers behind their earthworks on the Common, waiting for Washington to attack the town. On Flagstaff Hill was a redoubt; near the Frog Pond was a powder-house; along the water-front, now a part of



FROG POND, Boston Common.

the Back-bay district, were trenches. In 1766 the repeal of the Stamp Act was celebrated. Sufficient has been said to show that the Common has a real historic value; but the full story cannot be told here. Drake's "Old Landmarks of Boston" tells many an interesting tale of the Common and its surroundings. From time immemorial the Common has been a favorite place for couples who find pleasure in one another's company. An early account of Boston says, "On the south there is a small, pleasant Common, where the Gallants, a little before sunset, walk with their Marmalet-madams, as we do in Morefields, till the nine-o'clock bell rings them home to their respective habitations; when presently the Constables walk their rounds to see good order kept, and to take up loose people." Every pleasant evening the same custom is nowadays adhered to, but the hour is prolonged by some till midnight: the bell no longer rings for the couples to go home at nine; nor do the police "move along" those who chance to stay even past midnight.

At various times in the year celebrations of more or less importance take place on the Common. The Ancient and Honorable Artillery continue the custom of an annual review by the Governor, who personally commissions the newly-elected officers. There are several adornments that deserve mention. The Gardner-Brewer fountain is a bronze copy of a fountain designed by Liénard of Paris. At the base the figures represent Neptune and Amphitrite, Acis and Galatea. The fountain was cast in Paris, and was brought over and set up at the expense of Mr. Brewer. Copies of it have been made for the cities of Lyons and Bordeaux,

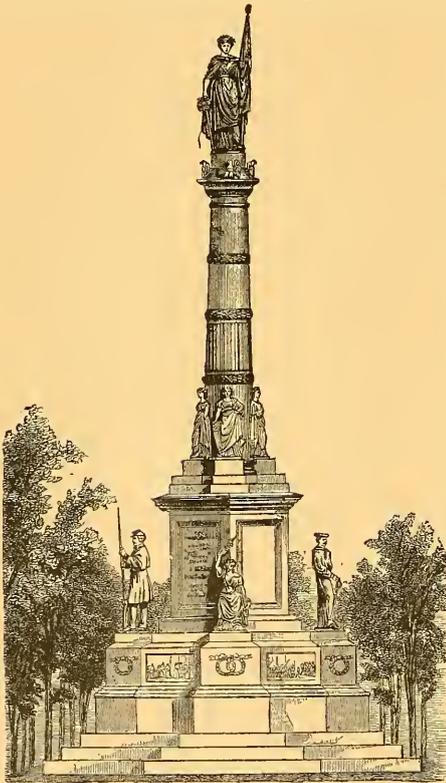


BOSTON MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, Huntington Avenue, Corner of Dartmouth Street.

and for the late Viceroy of Egypt. The Army and Navy Monument is on Flagstaff Hill, near the Frog Pond. It was dedicated with interesting ceremonies, in which President Hayes and staff participated, Sept. 17, 1877. The inscription, which was written by President Charles William Eliot of Harvard University, tersely tells the story of the monument:—

To the Men of Boston who died for their Country on Land and Sea, in the War which kept the Union whole, destroyed Slavery, and maintained the Constitution, the Grateful City has built this Monument, that their Example may speak to Coming Generations.

The general character of the monument is clearly seen in the accompanying illustration. The shaft is of white Maine granite, and is 70 feet high. The foundation is of solid masonry,



ARMY AND NAVY MONUMENT, Boston Common.

cruciform in shape, built up from a depth of 16 feet to the ground level. On this is a stone platform 38 feet square, reached by three steps. From the platform rises a plinth nine feet high, from which project at the four corners pedestals upon which stand bronze figures, each eight feet high, representing the Army, the Navy, Peace, and History. The bronze *mezzo-relievs* are symbolical of incidents in the war, the interest being greatly increased for Bostonians by the local character of the scenes and the distinguishable features of persons introduced in each scene. The monument is one of the costliest (about \$75,000), in the State.

Frog Pond is the only one left of the three ponds that were once upon the Common. It was a natural pond; but the enterprise of the people made of it an artificial pond, which is now well enclosed by an irregularly-shaped curbstone. In 1848 Cochituate water was introduced into the city, and the Frog Pond was made the place of a formal and unusually happy celebration. Before closing this mere catalogue of a few of the interesting features of the Common, mention must be made of the five grand malls or broad walks bordered with stately trees. They are known respectively as the Beacon-street, the Park-street, the Tremont-street, the Boylston-street, and the Charles-street Malls. On pleasant days some of these malls are utilized by the travelling amusement-caterers, with their Punch and Judy, cameras, telescopes, scales, blowing-machines, etc. In the winter the boys, by tradition now, have the right of way for coasting. The Common is enclosed by an iron fence 5,932 feet in length, having granite piers at the principal gateways.

The Back-bay district, although it makes no claims as a business district, for there is hardly a shop of any kind within the limits specified heretofore, can justly claim the distinction of being the site of the best hotels. There is the Vendome at the head of the list, followed by the Brunswick, Berkeley, Bristol, Cluny, Agassiz, Kempton, Huntington, and others.

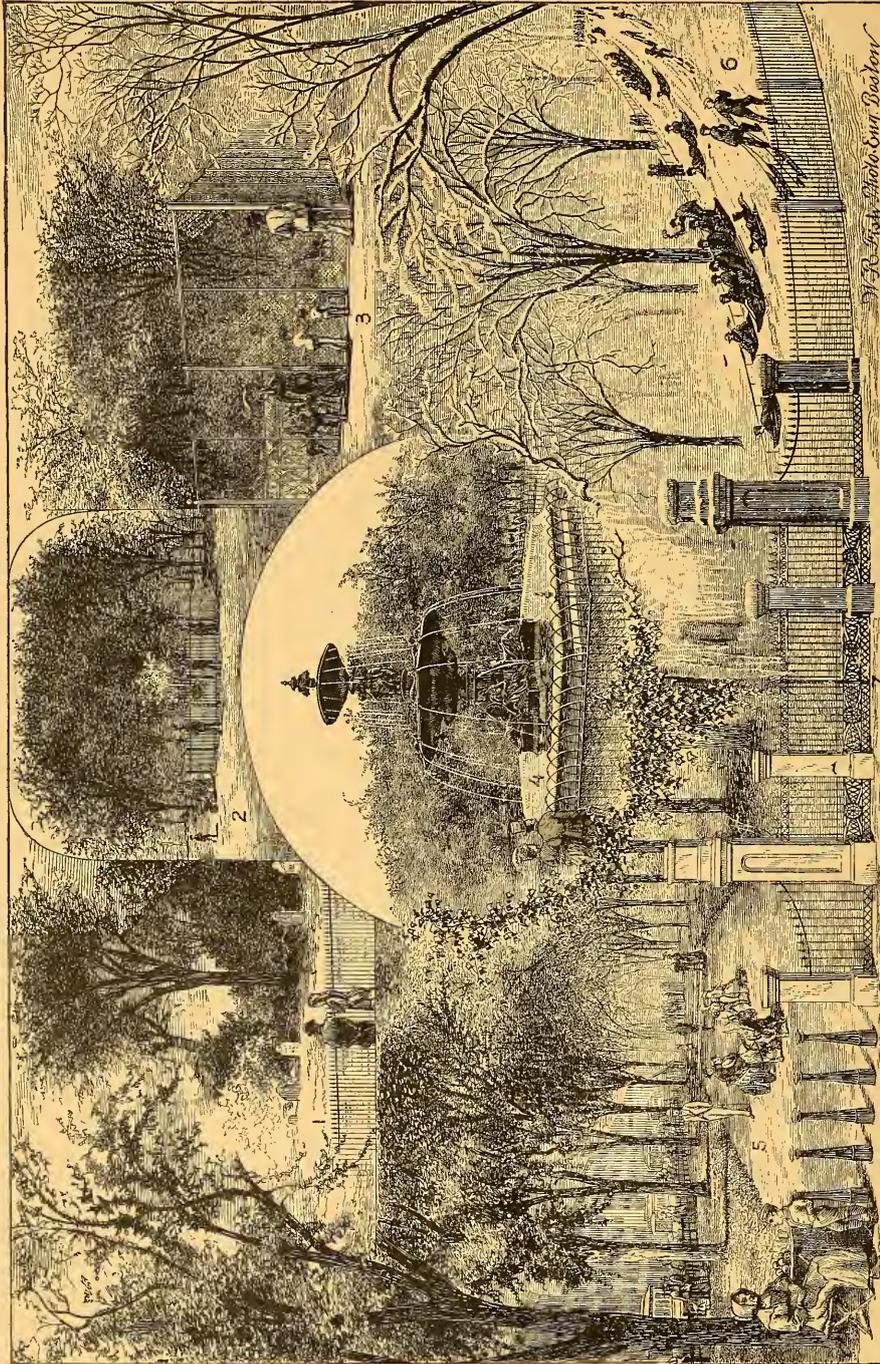
The Back-bay district will soon be to a great extent encircled by parks. The Boston

Common is a natural park of 48 acres; the Public Garden is a beautifully improved park of 24 acres; and Commonwealth Avenue, on which the Vendome is situated, is a long, narrow park. Before many years pass by, almost surely there will be under way an improvement known as the "Charles-River Embankment," which will provide a delightful park on the banks of the Charles River. This improvement is recommended by the Park Commissioners, and presents a feasible way of obtaining a valuable park at little cost.

But the most noteworthy of the park improvements now undergoing in comparatively close proximity to the Vendome is the Back-bay Park. In 1877 the Park Commissioners were authorized by the City Council to purchase not less than one hundred acres of land in the Back-bay district, at a cost of not over ten cents a foot, for the establishment of a public park. A loan of \$450,000 was also authorized. In February, 1878, this sum was increased to \$466,000. About \$384,000 additional has been appropriated for the Back-bay improvements. After a long and careful examination of the proposed site of the park, the original plans proved to be impracticable, owing to the great expense and endless litigation that would follow any attempt to carry them out. Consequently the Park Commissioners secured the services of Frederick Law Olmsted, a landscape-architect, who, in January, 1880, in a report to the Commissioners, recommended a plan which has since been adopted. According to this plan, an irregularly-shaped basin, 30 acres in extent, is to be formed by the waters of Stony Brook. Within the basin will be a surface of level land equal in area to that of the water, and a few inches higher, which is to be covered with sedges, rushes, and salt-grasses, enlivened by golden-rods and asters. Wild-fowl of various kinds are to be given a home here; and, as they will be free from molestation, it is expected that they will thrive as well as among their native reeds. Surrounding the entire basin of 60 acres there is to be a broad promenade, which will include a walk 25 to 40 feet wide, a drive 40 feet wide, and a riding-pad 25 feet wide. This section of the promenade will be three-quarters of a mile long; and the remainder will consist of a broad walk and driveway, connecting with Beacon, Boylston, and Parker Streets, and with Commonwealth, Westland, Huntington, Longwood, and Brookline Avenues. There will be but little artificial ornamentation. The shore will have a long sedgy slope, and will be overhung with foliage. The improvements will give the citizens a pleasure-ground of a very unique character; and its combination of the moving tints and shadows of salt-marsh vegetation with the bolder features of upland scenery will make an attractive picture for the lovers of the quaint and subdued in scenery.

"West Chester Park" is not a park, but a broad street, 90 feet wide, which crosses Commonwealth Avenue, five blocks west of the Vendome. It was laid out in 1873, and is a pleasant street, with as yet only a few houses on the part that runs through the new-made land of the Back Bay. It begins at Charles River, and, varying its direction at Falmouth Street, runs across the city. Between Tremont Street and Shawmut Avenue it broadens into Chester Square, a modest park of $1\frac{1}{3}$ acres. East of Washington Street it is called Chester Park. From West Chester Park it is contemplated to build a bridge to reach Cambridge, in the vicinity of the Old Fort Washington, on Putnam Avenue. By this means a direct and very pleasant route between Harvard College and Boston will be secured.

Boston has always been famous for crooked streets, named with no intention of aiding the stranger. In the districts that have been gained by annexation, some streets were systematically named; and in laying out the Back-bay district the nomenclature of streets did receive proper consideration, for west of the Public Garden they are named alphabetically, — Arlington comes first, Berkeley second, Clarendon, Dartmouth, Exeter, Fairfield, Gloucester, etc., so that a person knowing that the Vendome is on Dartmouth Street can easily reckon that it is four



1. Central Burying-Ground. 2. Old Elm Enclosure. 3. Deer-Park. 4. Gardner Brewer Fountain. 5. Tremont-st. Mall. 6. Coasting. 7. Park-st. Gate.

THE BOSTON COMMON.

of the Public Garden. Not only are the streets named in the order of the alphabet, but a name of three syllables always alternates with one of two syllables.

The clubs, too, are gaining a foothold in the Back-bay district, not far distant from the Vendome. The Somerset Club, the largest of the Boston clubs, bought, in 1872, the residence of David Sears, at No. 42 Beacon Street. The building is of granite with a double swell-front. The furnishings are elaborate and elegant. The Club was organized in 1852, and was the outgrowth of the Tremont-street Club. It has a membership of nearly 600.

The St. Botolph Club is the latest of the fashionable clubs. It was organized in 1880, and its membership includes a host of the most highly esteemed gentlemen of Boston. There is no "University Club" by name in this city, as in several large cities, but the new club seems to be one in fact; most of the members being graduates of universities, especially of Harvard. The Club occupies the building at No. 85 Boylston Street.

The Union Boat Club, organized in 1851, has its own club and boat house on the bank of the Charles River, at the foot of Chestnut Street. The building is of wood, and was erected in 1870, in a Swiss style of architecture. It is arranged with due regard to its purposes, and contains a gymnasium, club-rooms, dressing and bathing rooms, and accommodations for the boats. It has a water-frontage of 82 feet. A fine view of the river can be obtained on the roof and balconies, which are generally crowded on race-days. The Club, which, perhaps with one exception, is the oldest boat-club in the United States, has about 150 members. It introduced the style of rowing without a coxswain, and in 1853 rowed at Hull a race in which, for the first time in the United States, the boat was steered over the course by the bow-oar. This Club aided in getting up the first wherry-race.

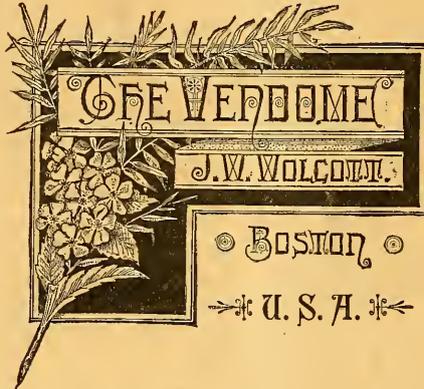
The Boston Tennis Club erected several years ago a commodious brick building on Buckingham Street, a little east of Dartmouth Street, and but a few blocks south of the Vendome. It is one of only two or three similar buildings in this country. It is said that the Club have in contemplation the erection of another building more elaborate than is the present one.

The Back-bay residents are also conveniently near to the leading places of amusement. For instance, from the Vendome to the Boston, the Park, the Globe, and the Gaiety Theatres, it is four blocks to Arlington Street, a pleasant walk over the Public Garden and Boston Common, then one block through West Street; in all a trip requiring less than ten minutes; and about the same time would be required to go to the Boston Museum, the Boston Music Hall, etc.

In the Back-bay district, the death-rate is lower than in any other section of the entire city. This, too, in spite of the fact that it is, as it has been patly designated, "the home of the doctors;" for throughout the district, but especially on Boylston Street, are the residences of a small army of physicians, surgeons, and dentists, including many who stand at the head of the profession, the deans of the three schools, the Harvard Medical School (Regular), of the Boston University School of Medicine (Homœopathic); and of the Harvard Dental School.

And now, while forced to an abrupt conclusion of a hasty glance at the chief objects of interest in the Back-bay district, it may be well to add, in reply to the fastidious people who desire to change the name to "West End" or to almost any thing that would not recall the salt marshes and waste flats of thirty years ago, that the name has already outgrown this objection; for it no longer suggests the back bay of the past, but a district that in itself would make Boston famous for taste, elegance, refinement, and prosperity. It is likewise with the name Vendome: it has a foreign sound, and may therefore perhaps be thought objectionable; but there is only one hotel of that name, and, as that one already ranks prominent among the palatial hotels of the world, the name itself will soon become familiar to every connoisseur of luxurious living.

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